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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**VIRGINIA MAN SENTENCED FOR INTERSTATE TRAVEL
TO MEET MINOR FOR SEX**

Baltimore - Maryland. Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that the Honorable Catherine C. Blake today sentenced Brandon Cushing, age 48, of Arlington, Virginia to 33 months in prison for traveling from Virginia to Maryland to engage in sexual activity with a minor.

According to search warrant affidavits, Cushing entered an America Online (AOL) chat area using the screen name "daddybrndn" and expressed an interest in having sex with a 14 year old girl. An undercover FBI agent used a screen name to pose as a 14 year old female named "Amy" living in Howard County. Cushing approached the undercover agent inside the chat room believing the agent to be a 14 year old girl. After months of chatting over AOL and exchanging e-mails, Chambers stated that he wished to meet Amy for the purpose of having sex. Prior to their meeting and during a recorded telephone call with the undercover FBI agent, Cushing reiterated his desire

to meet the 14 year old for sex. Cushing and the agent made arrangements to meet at a Target department store in Ellicott City, Maryland.

On June 19, 2002, at approximately 5:55 a.m, Cushing was observed by FBI agents leaving his Arlington, Virginia home and driving his car to Ellicott City, Maryland. Cushing arrived at the mall at approximately 8:20 a.m. and was arrested by the FBI.

Cushing was charged in a federal indictment in June, 2002 with interstate travel with intent to engage in a sexual act with a minor. Cushing pleaded guilty to the charge on February 21, 2003.

The case was investigated by the FBI Innocent Images Task Force and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jonathan P. Luna.